

MARVEL

11



PAKNADEL • ANTONIO • ARCINIEGA

CARNAGE



YEARS AGO, THE VENOM SYMBIOTE SPAWNED, AND ITS OFFSPRING BONDED TO
SERIAL KILLER CLETUS KASADY. IMBUED WITH INCREDIBLE STRENGTH, SPEED,
ENDURANCE AND POWERS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN,
KASADY AND HIS EXTRATERRESTRIAL "OTHER" SHARE A UNIQUE BOND AND HAVE
LONG TERRORIZED THE MARVEL UNIVERSE AS...

CARNAGE

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR.

REJECTED BY THE ONLY HOST ITS EVER KNOWN, CLETUS KASADY, THE
CARNAGE SYMBIOTE HAS SPENT WEEKS CONSUMING THE ABILITIES
OF SUPER-POWERED INDIVIDUALS AND MAKING ITSELF STRONGER FOR
PURPOSES UNKNOWN.

MEANWHILE, LEFT TO HIS OWN DEVICES, CLETUS KASADY HAS BEEN
CHANGING AS WELL. WITH HIS SOUL INHABITING AN OTHERWORLDLY
SYMBIOTE DRAGON, ITSELF FUSED WITH THE HIGHLY ADVANCED EXTREMIS
VIRUS, CLETUS IS MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER BEFORE.

WITHOUT EACH OTHER, BOTH HALVES OF THE BEING CALLED CARNAGE
HAVE FOUND NEW COMPANIONS – BUT IN AN UNEXPECTED TWIST OF FATE,
THEIR WARDS HAVE TRADED PLACES, WITH NYPD DETECTIVE JONATHAN
SHAYDE COMING FACE TO FACE WITH THE CARNAGE SYMBIOTE ON A
DISTANT WORLD AND SERIAL KILLER KENNETH NEELY COMING FACE-TO-
FACE WITH HIS IDOL, CLETUS KASADY, ON EARTH...

ALEX PAKNADEL

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RAM V

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I...
I'M KENNETH
NEELY.

IS THAT
NAME SUPPOSED
TO MEAN SOMETHING
TO ME?

I'M LIKE
YOU, MISTER
KASADY.

OH, I
HIGHLY DOUBT
THAT, KEN.

IT'S
KENNETH.

AND I AM
LIKE YOU, MISTER
KASADY! I'M AN
ARTIST!

I'VE TRANSFORMED
THIRTY-THREE PEOPLE!
EXQUISITE LITTLE SPIRALS
IN MAP AND BONE.

THIRTY-THREE.
HMM?

WELL,
GOSH, KEN, THAT
PRACTICALLY MAKES
US **FAMILY** NOW,
DOESN'T IT?

W-WAIT,
WHAT'S GOING
ON?







"HE HAS TO BE STOPPED."

MY WORLD IS RED.

MOLTEN AS A SANCTUARY LAMP.

BINDING AS A ROYAL SEAL.

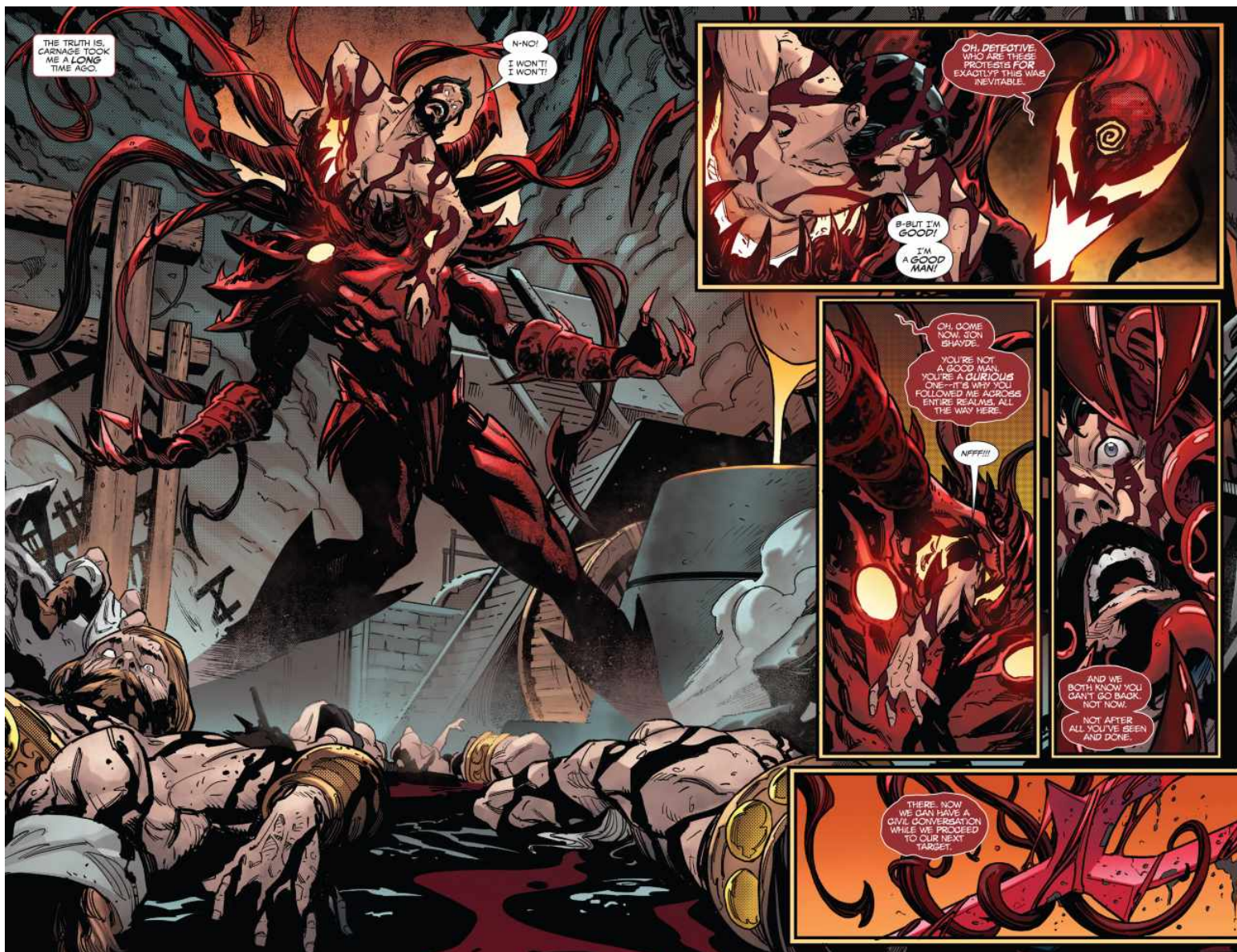
THIS MONSTER... I'VE HUNTED IT MY WHOLE LIFE WITHOUT EVER KNOWING ITS NAME... AND NOW I'M ITS *HOST*.

I'VE SEEN IT IN EVERY DESECRATION OF THE HUMAN FORM IMAGINABLE-- CREATIONS SO VILE EVEN THE *FLIES* KEPT THEIR DISTANCE.

HKK! GAK!
GLKK!

I'VE HEARD ITS SAWMILL- CACKLE A THOUSAND TIMES-- IN EACH BALLISTICS REPORT, EACH SPATTER PATTERN.

SO, WHEN THE MONSTER STITCHED ME BACK TOGETHER WITH ITS OWN SUBSTANCE, NOT A SINGLE



THE TRUTH IS,
CARNAGE TOOK
ME A LONG
TIME AGO.

N-NO!
I WON'T!
I WON'T!

OH, DETECTIVE
WHO ARE THESE
PROTESTS FOR
EXACTLY? THIS WAS
INEVITABLE.

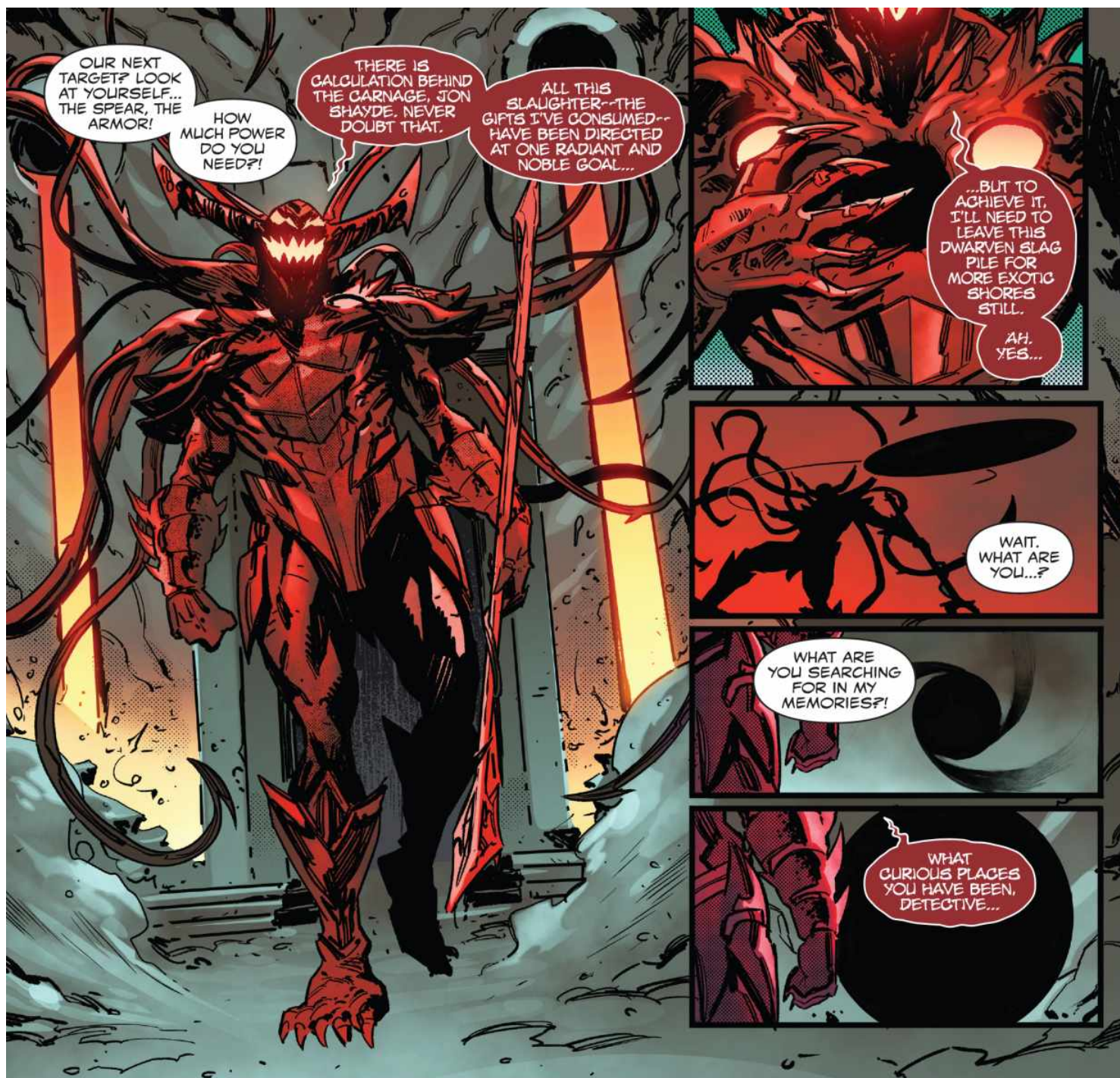
B-BUT I'M
GOOD!
I'M
A GOOD
MAN!

OH, COME
NOW, SON
SHADE.
YOU'RE NOT
A GOOD MAN
ONE-IT'S WHY YOU
FOLLOWED ME ACROSS
ENTIRE REALMS, ALL
THE WAY HERE.

NFFF!!

AND WE
BOTH KNOW YOU
CAN'T GO BACK.
NOT NOW.
NOT AFTER
ALL YOU'VE SEEN
AND DONE.

THERE, NOW
WE CAN HAVE A
CIVIL CONVERSATION
WHILE WE PROCEED
TO OUR NEXT
TARGET.



OUR NEXT
TARGET? LOOK
AT YOURSELF...
THE SPEAR, THE
ARMOR!

HOW
MUCH POWER
DO YOU
NEED?!

THERE IS
CALCULATION BEHIND
THE CARNAGE, JON
SHAYDE. NEVER
DOUBT THAT.

ALL THIS
SLAUGHTER--THE
GIFTS I'VE CONSUMED--
HAVE BEEN DIRECTED
AT ONE RADIANT AND
NOBLE GOAL...

...BUT TO
ACHIEVE IT,
I'LL NEED TO
LEAVE THIS
DWARVEN SLAG
PILE FOR
MORE EXOTIC
SHORES
STILL..

AH.
YES...

WAIT.
WHAT ARE
YOU...?

WHAT ARE
YOU SEARCHING
FOR IN MY
MEMORIES?!

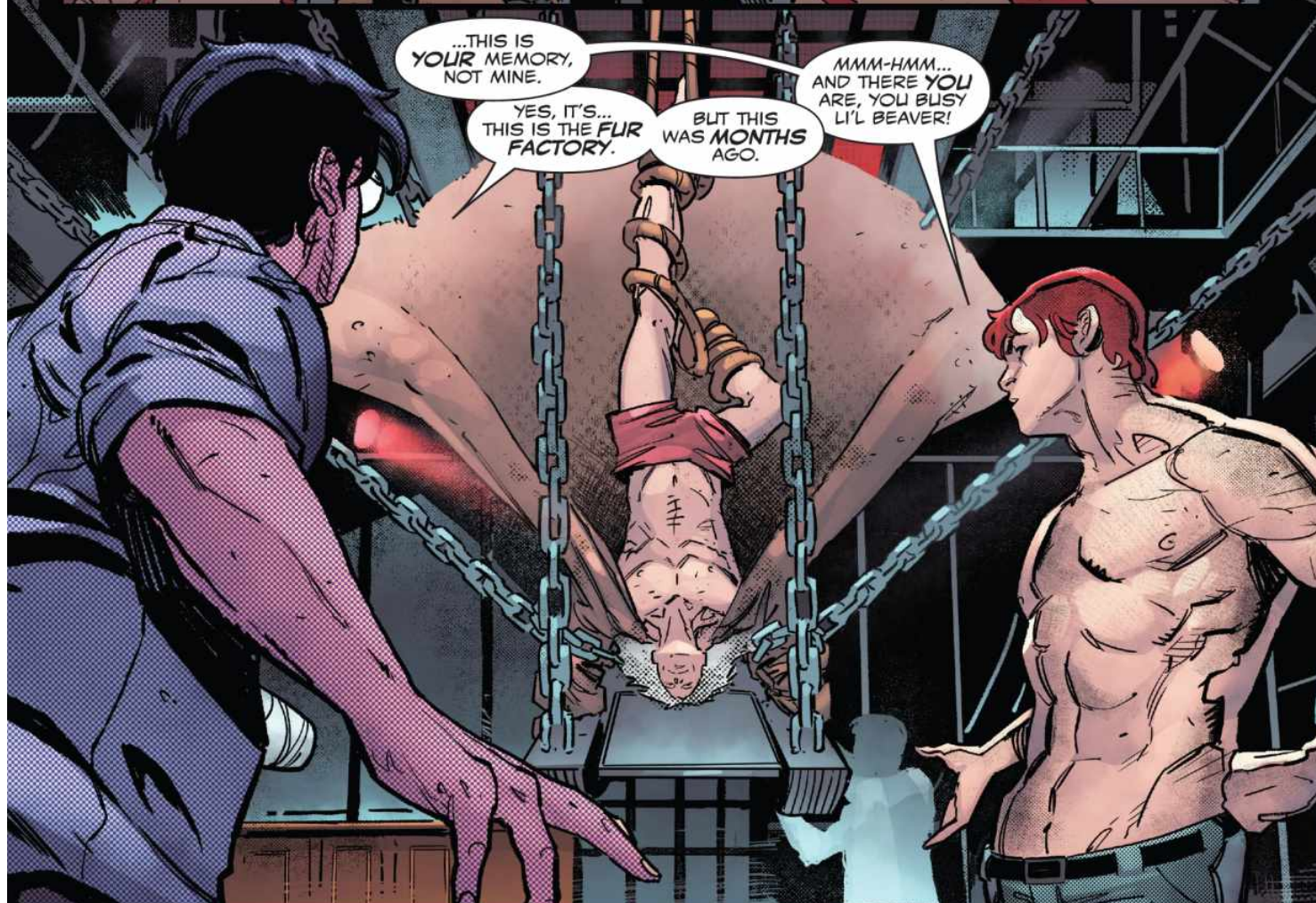
WHAT
CURIOUS PLACES
YOU HAVE BEEN,
DETECTIVE...

LET US
REVISIT SOME,
SHALL WE?



"SO, CARNAGE IS







THIS WAS
THE LAST PIECE
I COMPLETED
BEFORE IT
FOUND ME.

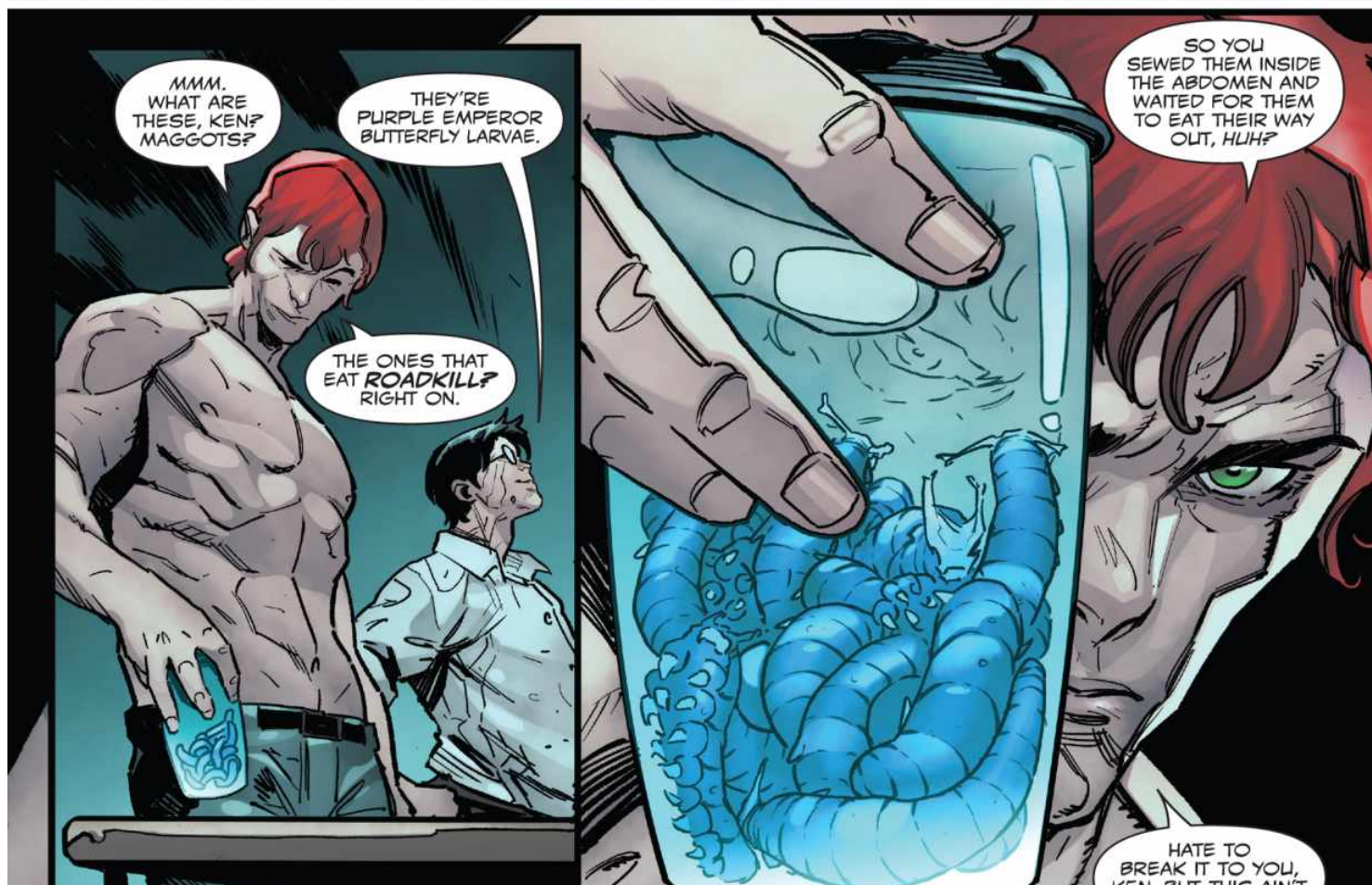
THE LAST...
PIECE?

I WAS
CALLING TO
CARNAGE WITH MY
ART, MISTER
KASADY.



I--I THOUGHT
IF I USED DECAY
AS A **MEDIUM**--
HARNESSED TH--THE
PUTREFACTION PROCESS TO
CREATE JUXTAPOSITIONS
OF BEAUTY AND BLIGHT,
THEN **MAYBE**...

AND IT
WORKED.



MMM.
WHAT ARE
THESE, KEN?
MAGGOTS?

THEY'RE
PURPLE EMPEROR
BUTTERFLY LARVAE.

THE ONES THAT
EAT **ROADKILL**?
RIGHT ON.

SO YOU
SEWED THEM INSIDE
THE ABDOMEN AND
WAITED FOR THEM
TO EAT THEIR WAY
OUT, HUH?

HATE TO
BREAK IT TO YOU,
KEN, BUT THIS UNIT



STOP
LAUGHING!!!

SWIKK

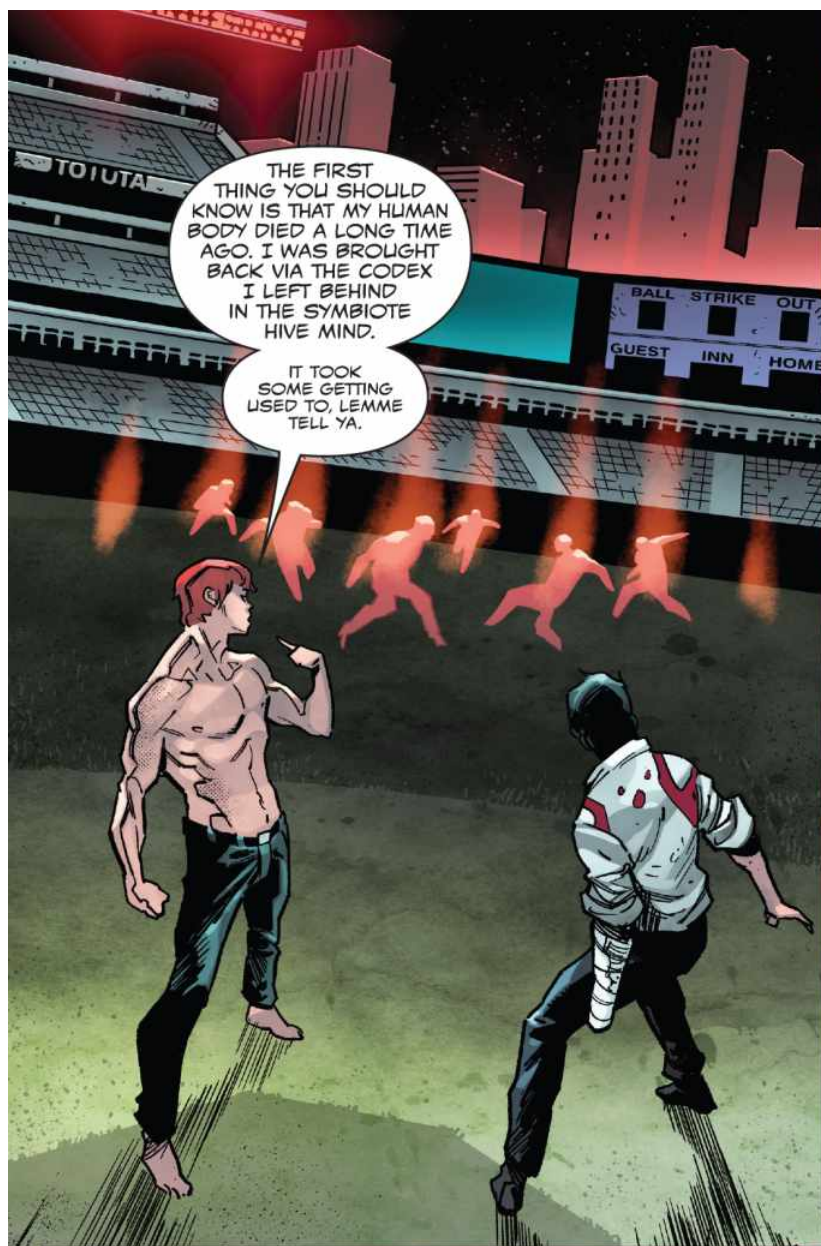
KRSHHH

GLKKK!!!
HEKK!!!

WH-WHY
COULDN'T YOU
JUST STOP LAUGHING,
KASADY?! LOOK
WHAT YOU DID!!!







THE FIRST THING YOU SHOULD KNOW IS THAT MY HUMAN BODY DIED A LONG TIME AGO. I WAS BROUGHT BACK VIA THE CODEX I LEFT BEHIND IN THE SYMBIOTE HIVE MIND.

IT TOOK SOME GETTING USED TO, LEMME TELL YA.



CARNAGE WAS MY RIDE FOR A WHILE--BONDING WITH PHYSICAL HOSTS BUT LETTING ME RETAIN CONTROL. NOT A PERFECT ARRANGEMENT, BUT WE MADE IT WORK.



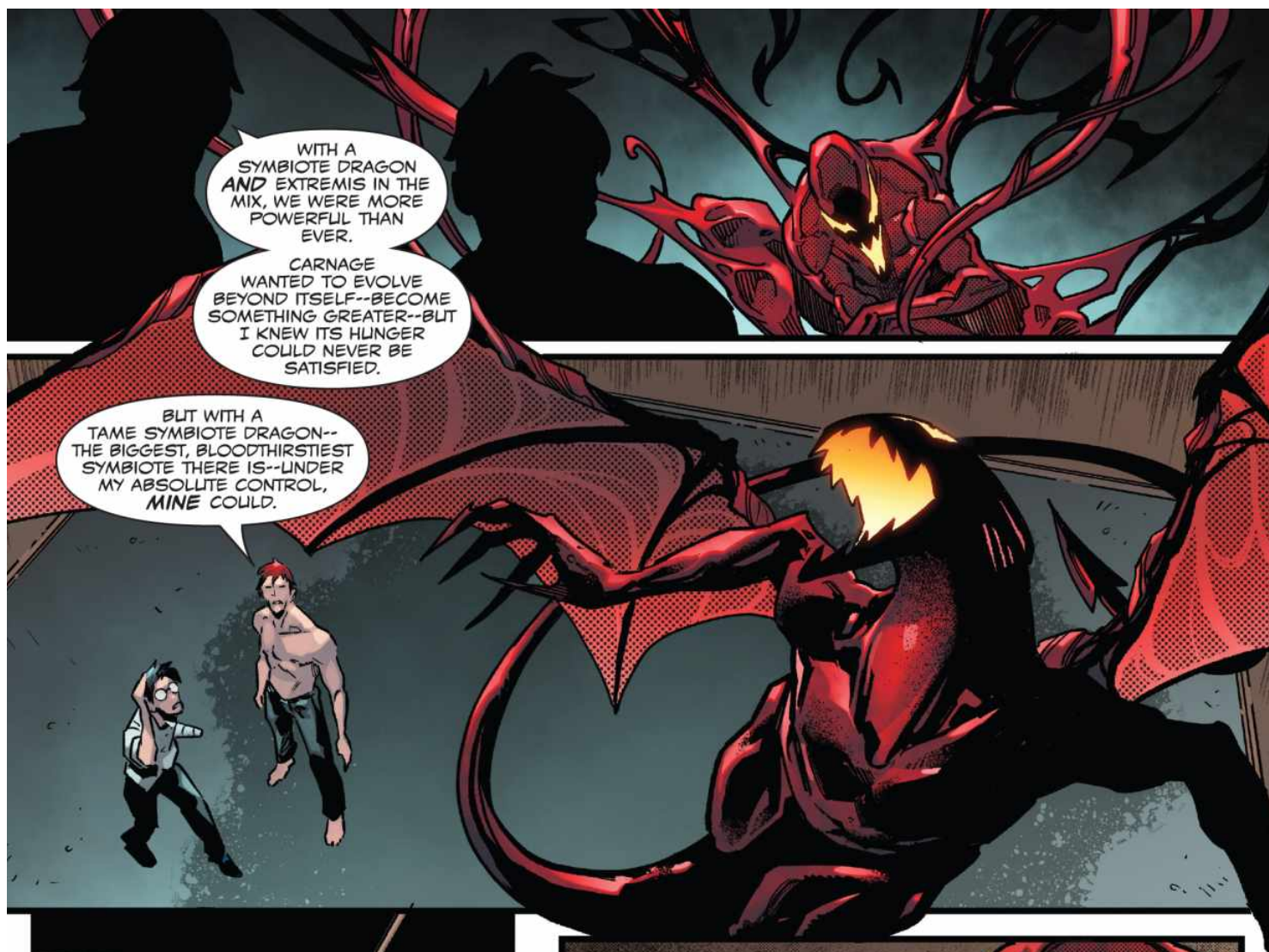
"THEN THIS SMUG RICH %&@# TRIED TO VAPORIZE ME--WITH A SYMBIOTE DRAGON BONDED TO ONE OF HIS STUPID METAL SUITS NO LESS.*"

*SEE THE KING IN BLACK AND EXTREME CARNAGE EPICS! --EDITOR



"HE'D SEPARATED IT FROM THE HIVE WITH THE EXTREMIS SERUM, SO HE THOUGHT IT WAS HIS TO COMMAND. BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I TOLD HIM:"

I'M THE ALPHA AROUND HERE, BOY!



WITH A SYMBIOTE DRAGON AND EXTREMIS IN THE MIX, WE WERE MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER.

CARNAGE WANTED TO EVOLVE BEYOND ITSELF--BECOME SOMETHING GREATER--BUT I KNEW ITS HUNGER COULD NEVER BE SATISFIED.

BUT WITH A TAME SYMBIOTE DRAGON--THE BIGGEST, BLOODTHIRSTIEST SYMBIOTE THERE IS--UNDER MY ABSOLUTE CONTROL, *MINE* COULD.



I'VE SEEN EVERY ATROCITY THIS UNIVERSE HAS TO OFFER, AND I KNEW NONE OF THEM COULD MATCH THE PRETTY PICTURES IN MY HEAD...



...SO I CAME BACK TO ST. ESTES TO MAKE THEM REAL.



AND CARNAGE?

HAVEN'T YOU BEEN LISTENING, KEN?



IT GETS TO
BE A GOD **OUT**
THERE...

...AND I GET
TO BE A GOD
IN HERE.

...
IT MUST BE
HARD...FINALLY
BEING THE
BYSTANDER.



KLK

...
I'M SORRY,
WHAT?



A-ALL THESE
YEARS, YOU'VE
BEEN PLAYING TO AN
AUDIENCE OF ONE--
SOMETHING **CLOSER**
THAN A SYMBIOTE
OR...OR A TWIN
BROTHER.

CAREFUL
NOW, KEN...

OR WHAT...
YOU'LL **KILL ME?**
YOU WERE GOING
TO DO THAT
ANYWAY.



THERE WAS
NO DISTINCTION
BETWEEN YOU AND
CARNAGE--YOU WERE
ONE AND THE SAME--
SO WITH CARNAGE
GONE, **WHAT**
ARE YOU?

I'M CLETUS
KASADY.



I'M
CLETUS \$%&\$%
KASADY!

AKK!



NNN/ BUT
EVERYONE'S
FORGOTTEN
WHAT THAT
MEANS.

THEY'VE
FORGOTTEN THE
KNIVES BEHIND
THE TEETH.



...
YOU KNOW
WHAT, KEN? YOU
MIGHT BE RIGHT. I
CAN SEE WHY HE
KEPT YOU
AROUND.



COME
ON, LET'S
GO.

-KAFF-
WHERE ARE WE
GOING?

WE'RE
GOING TO GIVE
THE PEOPLE
WHAT THEY
WANT...





CLETUS' Clubhouse

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TOM GRONEMAN
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C.B. CEBULSKI
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SEND E-MAILS TO SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM (PLEASE MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!)

HELLO, SYMBIOTE FANS!

Editor Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in print from Marvel HQ! It has been a LONG time since we enjoyed one another's company in one of these letter columns, hasn't it?

Well, as you'll soon find out, we've been busy crafting the coolest and craziest SUMMER OF SYMBIOTES you've ever seen and ever WILL see!

This year marks 35 years since the creation of Venom, and with it, we here at the House of Ideas have planned an all-out birthday extravaganza—not just for Venom, but for every symbiote that it brought into the Marvel Universe in one way or another.

If I've said it once in one of these letter columns, I've said it a thousand times: Venom is my favorite comic book character, bar none, and to be able to bring you readers out there in Mighty Marveldom the tales of their exploits and those of every symbiote is tremendously exciting. But speaking as a fan first, it's NEVER been more exciting than this upcoming year will be! This series that you hold in your hands is a tremendous part of the reason why—and you symbiote fans out there in the big wide world seem to have started picking up what Ram, Francesco, Erick and Dijo have been putting down. Don't believe me? Read on for yourselves!

Symbiote Editors,

CARNAGE RULES! What a way to end this issue with the promise of a new blade to go alongside All-Black! Now I can't help but wonder if Cletus and Carnage will rekindle their bond and if a new symbiote god will set his sights on the Marvel universe! I can hardly wait for the next issue! Thanks so much for the entertainment, guys!

Jose L.



Dear Venom office,

I don't really know where to begin. Cletus/Carnage has been my favorite character since I was 4 years old (weird choice for a kid, I know. Blame the '94 cartoon.), and I was beyond excited any time Carnage got a new run, but after **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE**, I quit comics completely because Cletus died. Of course, I continued reading Carnage comics but not the other titles.

Now onto this book. **CARNAGE FOREVER** got me interested when it was announced. After that, I saw that Ram V was writing Carnage's story, and I just had this feeling in my gut. "Trust that man, he will bring Cletus back. He will reunite Cletus and Red, and he will tell a Carnage story that beats what Donny Cates did with Venom."

When a preview said Carnage is looking for a new host, I knew you guys were messing with us. Come on! We all know

each issue. I love how every issue is so different from the last—it started as a detective hunting a serial killer, and now it's Carnage making himself a god and I'm here for it!

I'm writing this letter to thank Ram V—thank you for bringing back Cletus Kasady in #8. I started crying tears of joy the moment I saw St. Estes, because I knew that meant my boy was back. Thank you, Ram V, for rekindling my love for comics with this run, and thank you for writing the best comic book of all time: **CARNAGE** (2022).

I can't wait for more. I can't wait to see how Cletus and Carnage reunite, and also I'm stoked to see if Carnage will forge the Venom codex into the trident he had on some covers. I have a feeling that will be his version of All-Black.

Hats off to the creative team—you truly made the best comic book to ever grace this world. Thank you, kings.

Matej B.

MATEJ! I feel like I owe you an apology, my friend! I was the editor of Donny Cates and Ryan Stegman's run on **VENOM**, and I **PROMISE** that all we wanted when we were in the room crafting **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** was to make the best damn Cletus Kasady and Carnage story we could. We certainly didn't want you to stop reading comics! (Much as we might love to hear that you kept reading **CARNAGE**!)

There's **ALWAYS** a plan, so trust us next time, yeah? And **NEVER STOP** reading **AVENGERS** or **SPIDER-MAN** or **DARKHAWK** or whatever! **THOSE BOOKS ARE ALL GREAT!** If it's Marvel, it's Mighty, y'know?

AND! As much as we appreciate being considered royalty, there's only **ONE** king 'round these parts: **EDDIE BROCK! THE KING IN BLACK!**

At least, he's the only one...**FOR NOW!**



Hey, Spider-Office!

I gotta say, this **CARNAGE** run is amazing. Carnage has **ALWAYS** been my favorite symbiote. The story is great, and the artwork is awesome. I'm just curious as to what he will do next. Props to Ram V and everyone else who helped collaborate on the project and make it the amazing series it is now. Thank you so much and continue being Amazing. Get it? **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN?** Anyway...

Keep up the good work,
Dante P.

It's funny you should ask what Carnage will be getting up to next! While we'll be checking in with the Carnage symbiote and its otherworldly antics periodically over the summer, the real star of the show is going to be Cletus Kasady!

In last summer's **EXTREME CARNAGE**,

long ago—and just like Peter, Cletus has continued having adventures all his own. Unfortunately, his intentions are a LOT less altruistic than Peter's.

You'll find out just how brutal and bloody his designs are in this summer's **CARNAGE REIGNS**, a multipart crossover spanning May's and June's issues of **CARNAGE** and **MILES MORALES: SPIDER-MAN** and June's **RED GOBLIN**! There may even be another guest star or two along the way. But I can't imagine who. Peep this cover from none other than comics' favorite son **RYAN STEGMAN** with one of the greatest colorists to ever do it, **EDGAR DELGADO**!



That's all I can say for now, but trust me when I tell you that this story will leave you seeing **RED**!

Stay sharp!
Devin
2.8.23



